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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/692,479

Applicant(s)

KAERTS ET AL.

Examiner

K. Feggins

Art Unit

2861

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed 9/30/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,4-6 and 8-17.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>10/24/2003</u> | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The primary reason for allowance of claims 1, 2, 4 & 15 is the inclusion of the limitations of a thermal head printer that includes at least one of the thermal heads having heating elements for which L_n/P_n is between 0.25 and 0.88 wherein the printer is capable of image-wise printing the substantially light insensitive thermographic material, and wherein the substantially light-insensitive thermographic material is not perforated by the printer. It is these limitations found in the claims, as they are claimed in the combination of that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which makes these claims allowable over the prior art.

The primary reason for allowance of claims 5, 6 & 8 is the inclusion of a method steps of a thermal head printer that includes a transport system that is capable of transporting the light insensitive thermographic material in contact or proximity or with at least one of the thermal heads and wherein at least one of the thermal heads having heating elements for which L_n/P_n is between 0.25 and 0.88. It is this step found in the claim, as it is claimed in the combination of that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which makes these claims allowable over the prior art.

The primary reason for allowance of claims 11-12 is the inclusion of the limitations of a thermal head printer that includes at least one of the thermal heads having heating elements for which L_n/P_n is between 0.25 and 0.88 wherein the width of a space between adjacent resistors along a line in the plane of the heating elements

Art Unit: 2861

which bisects all the heating elements is 20% or less of P_n , wherein the printer is capable of image-wise printing the substantially light insensitive thermographic material and wherein the substantially light insensitive thermographic material is not perforated by the printer. It is these limitations found in the claims, as they are claimed in the combination of that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which makes these claims allowable over the prior art.

The primary reason for allowance of claims 13-14 is the inclusion of a method steps of a thermal head printer that includes a transport system that is capable of transporting the light insensitive thermographic material in contact or proximity with at least one of the thermal heads and wherein at least one the thermal heads having heating elements for which L_n/P_n is between 0.25 and 0.88, wherein the width of a space between adjacent resistors along a line in the plane of the heating elements which bisects all the heating elements is 20% or less of P_n , wherein the substantially light insensitive thermographic material is not perforated by the printer. It is these steps found in the claim, as it is claimed in the combination of that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which makes these claims allowable over the prior art.

The primary reason for allowance of claim 16 is the inclusion of the limitations of a thermal head printer that includes a transport system that is capable of transporting the light insensitive thermographic material in contact or proximity with at least one of the at least one of the at least tow thermal heads and wherein at least one of the at least two thermal heads having heating elements for which L_n/P_n is between 0.25 and

Art Unit: 2861

0.88, wherein the substantially light insensitive thermographic material is not perforated by the printer and wherein said at least two thermal heads are configured that a first thermal head can be replaced by the n th thermal head while being capable of maintaining a comparable image tone with the substantially light insensitive thermographic material. It is these limitations found in the claims, as they are claimed in the combination of that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which makes these claims allowable over the prior art.

The primary reason for allowance of claim 17 is the inclusion of a method steps of a thermal head printer that includes a transport system that is capable of transporting the light insensitive thermographic material in contact or proximity with at least one of the thermal heads and wherein at least one the thermal heads having heating elements for which L_n/P_n is between 0.25 and 0.88, and wherein a first thermal head can be replaced by an n th thermal head while being capable of maintaining a comparable image tone with the substantially light insensitive thermographic material. It is these steps found in the claim, as it is claimed in the combination of that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which makes these claims allowable over the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Communication With The USPTO

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to K. Feggins whose telephone number is 571-272-2254. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Talbott Dave can be reached on 571-272-1934. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

KF 9/05
K. FEGGINS
PRIMARY EXAMINER